OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

May 13, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Robert P. Gemberling dated March 30, 1964, at Dallas, Texas, which was furnished to you by letter dated April 8, 1964.

Your attention is directed to pages 69 through 72 which reveal information concerning Morton Brown, also known as Mordecai Brienberg, author of the article "The Riddle of Dallas." This article appeared in the March 6, 1964, issue of the "Spectator" published by "The Spectator Ltd., 99 Gower Street, London, W. C. 1, England."

Enclosed are two copies of the article which were reproduced from a copy of the "Spectator" obtained from the Library of Congress.

Mr. Morton Brown has never been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Our files contain an article published in the "Daily Californian," Berkeley, California, on March 11, 1963, captioned "End the Speaker Ban." The article revealed that on Monday, February 8, 1963, the Administration of the University of California denied the Department of History use of the University facilities to hold one lecture of its regular colloquial series. The justification for the Administration's refusal was based upon an interpretation of Rule Five of the Kerr Directive, which in substance states that speakers cannot use a University Forum

for propagandistic purposes. The scheduled speaker was Dr. Herbert Aptheker, editor of the communist monthly "Political Affairs." Included under the article was the following statement: "We, the undersigned faculty and graduate students of the University of California, protest the existence of the speaker ban and the unwarranted interference by the Administration in the affairs of an academic department of the University." Under this statement were numerous printed names among which appeared the name "Morton Brown," who may be identical with the author of the article "The Riddle of Dallas."

"Political Affairs" was cited by the Subversive Activities Control Board on April 20, 1953. It was described as being among publications which "are or were during their existence official and controlled organs" of the Communist Party of the United States of America.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (2)